monopoly, Gazprom, which would remove hurdles on the way to Indian investment in the Russian energy sector;

(b) whether any final decision between India and Russia has been reached; and

(c) if so, the details of the agreement reached and by when, it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The modalities of merger between Rosneft, the State-owned oil company and Gazprom are not known to the public at this point of time.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

ONGC'S projects in Russia

2888. SHRMATI SUKHBUNS KAURRI:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has agreed with Russia to undertake expolrations and exploitations in respect of 11 oil and gas projects in that country including Yuganskneftgas former Yukos core asset;

(b) if so, the details of the basket of discovered fields and producing property in question; and

(c) the terms of the agreement and the benefits that are likely to accrue to India thereby?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Rosneft are already partners in the Sakhalin-I project in Russia, in which OVL has 20% stake.

Further discussions about possible areas of collaboration have been held at Ministerial, official and commercial level on this subject, and

encouraging progress has been made in this regard, but no commercial agreements have as yet been concluded for joint bidding by ONGC Videsh Ltd. and any Russian oil major for oil and gas blocks in Russia.

(c) In respect of Sakhalin-I project, OVL will get a share in production as per the formula given in the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA). Limited production of oil and gas from the project is expected from 2005-06 and full production is expected from the last quarter of 2006-07.

US'S assistance in energy sector

2889. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has offered its help to India to meet the energy requirements in the next decade through new and sophisticated technologies in this field; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of crude oil

†2890. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual production of crude oil in tonnes in the country at present;

(b) the total import of oil in tonnes;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to increase crude oil production in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.